

a second photodetector having a third photodetecting element and a fourth photodetecting element divided by a second line optically parallel with a tangential direction of the information writing track, which detects reflected light of a second laser beam irradiated to the guiding track including the prepit information;

a second subtracting circuit which produces a second difference signal based on outputs of the third photodetecting element and the fourth photodetecting elements of the second photodetector;

a level adjusting circuit which adjusts a level of the second difference signal; and

a tracking error signal generating circuit which generates a tracking error signal based on the first difference signal and an output of the level adjusting circuit.

13. (New) The reading system according to claim 12, further comprising a prepit detection circuit which generates a prepit signal based on an output of the second photodetector.

14. (New) The reading system according to claim 13, wherein the second photodetector is further divided by a third line optically parallel with a radial direction of the optical disc, and wherein the prepit detection circuit generates the prepit signal by subtracting an output of one side of the second photodetector divided by the third line from an output of another side of the second photodetector divided by the third line.

REMARKS

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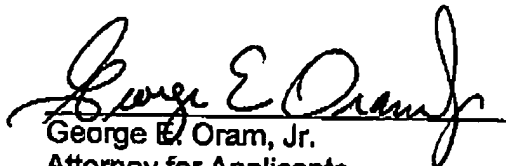
(09/730,515)

Claims 1, 2 and 5 (renumbered as claims 1-3 as noted in the Notice of Allowance September 13, 2002) are pending in the present application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 2 has been amended and claims 6-14 have been added. All amendments and additions are supported by the Specification and Drawings. Thus, no new matter is presented.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107156-00033.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Marked-Up Copy Claims

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MARKED-UP COPY CLAIMS

2. (Amended) The reading system according to claim 1, wherein the second photodetector is further divided by a third dividing line optically parallel with a radial direction of the optical disc[, and];

third difference signal producing means is provided for producing a third difference signal [is provided] based on a difference between the added outputs of photodetecting elements of each side divided by the third dividing line; the prepit information being obtained based on the third difference signal.

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